

HOWNICKAN

PEOPLE OF THE FIRE

Vol. 20, No. 11

Citizen Potawatomi Nation

November 1998

SEASONS

Greetings

From All Of Us At
Citizen Potawatomi
Nation Headquarters

Potawatomis eligible for home buying help

By Michael Dodson

Citizen Potawatomi Nation members who reside in the state of Oklahoma can now purchase a home with as little as one percent (1%) of the purchase price coming from their own funds.

The \$5 million dollar home ownership pilot program was announced by John "Rocky" Barrett, Chairman of the Potawatomi Nation, and representatives of First National Bank and Trust Co. of Shawnee, First Americans Mortgage Corp., Freddie Mac, PMI Mortgage Insurance Co., and Washington Mutual.

The Potawatomi Nation program is among the first to take advantage of money available through the 1996 Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA). The Act was approved to promote affordable housing opportunities for Native American citizens, both on and off Native American lands.

The \$5 million dollar initiative is targeted to all Citizen Potawatomi tribal members living in Oklahoma, regardless of income. This first phase of a comprehensive Potawatomi Nation housing program is expected to help 75 to 85 tribal members purchase existing homes, construct new homes, or re-finance homes they already own.

The Potawatomi Nation will leverage \$5 million of its NAHASDA funding, from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, to make these home loans available.

These mortgages will require a three percent (3%) down payment. "The prospective home owner will have to provide just one percent (1%) of the purchase price from his own funds toward the down payment," explained John "Rocky" Barrett, Potawatomi Chairman. "The remainder of the down payment and a portion of the loan-closing costs can be provided through a second mortgage from the Nation's housing funds."

Those second mortgages will be available at very low interest rates. Program participants will repay the second mortgages simultaneously with making payments on the first mortgage.

Potawatomi tribal members who take advantage of this opportunity can obtain mortgage money through First National Bank and Trust Co. of Shawnee. First National, which is owned by the Potawatomi Nation, has created a mortgage department to handle demand from this program and from the public at-large.

"This is a natural and very compatible next step for First National to take, as we expand to serve the needs of tribal members and the entire population of our service area," said Larry Briggs, President.

First Americans Mortgage Corporation assisted in developing the program and will be working in partnership with the Housing Authority and First National Bank to originate the loans. "FAMC is

Please turn to page 10

INSIDE:

Northern Texas Regional Council Pages 6-7

Regional Reports Pages 8-9

Accounting Department Award Page 12

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TRIBAL TRACTS

From Our Mailbox

Seeks family info

To Whom It May Concer:

My mother would like to gather more information on her grandmother's family. Her grandmother was Cha ma qua (Kate Blair) and her great-grandparents were Kah dah dos and Shken he ah (or ne ah). Her grandmother was born in what is now Illinois, and raised at Sacred Heart. She would also like to know the circumstances, if available, of why Kate Blair was left at the mission. My mother's father was Kirk Lewis Blair.

If there are any questions or information available, please contact me at my e-mail address: Wurlwnd@aol.com. Otherwise, you may contact us at (903) 893-0600 or write to us at 2201 Post Oak Drive, Sherman, Texas 75092. Thank you; we will be looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Karin Kreager

School help available

I am writing this letter as a tribal member wishing to shed light on academic opportunities for fellow students of Native American descent. For the past two years I have been attending the University of Central Oklahoma as a Biology major. Three of those semesters I have been funded by OKAMP/SMET, a minority scholarship

for students in the field of science, math or computer science.

This scholarship has been a major source of funding and pays the bulk of my tuition. Unfortunately, too few students are taking advantage of this scholarship and the Oklahoma Alliance for Minority Participation in Science, Math, Engineering and Technology (OKAMP/SMET) is losing major funding. The enrollment in the scholarship at UCO would almost have to double or the funding will continue to be reduced and possibly discontinued. I would like to encourage fellow tribal members to consider the opportunities at hand.

Even if you are not fresh out of high school, funding is still available. The faculty advisors for OKAMP were directly advised to recruit Native Americans as only three of the thirty something students enrolled are of Native American descent. If more people do not take these opportunities they will no longer be available for anyone.

All fields of study and all facilities of higher education, including community colleges, offer scholarships. Two good sources to contact are the Office of Prospective Student Scholarships and the Office of Multicultural Student Services. There are numerous academic scholarships that are not awarded each year, not due to lack of funding, but lack of interest; no one applies.

Sincerely,

Paige Hill

Thanks for scholarship

To the members of the Financial Aid and Housing Boards:

I want to express my gratification to you for extending me a scholarship to pursue my MBA. I am sure you would agree with me the value of an education is priceless. Hopefully I can be an inspiration to others to try and achieve their goals. Once again, thank you.

Richard Fletcher

Another thank you

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I apologize for not sending this letter of appreciation sooner. I did receive the wonderful Potawatomi scholarship money for the fall semester 1998 and I am sincerely grateful! I have been accepted at Northeastern State University beginning spring semester 1999 and will continue in the pursuit of my degree in secondary education. Knowing that my tribe supports me in my endeavors means a lot to me.

Yours truly,

Darlene Goldsmith

Walking on ...

Gary Lynn Merrill

Gary Lynn Merrill, 46, of Pascagoula, Mississippi, formerly of Oklahoma, died Friday, October 30, 1998. Services were held November 4, 1998, at North Fork Baptist Church, Eufaula, and committal followed at Ft. Gibson National Cemetery.

Mr. Merrill attended school at Chickasha and Woodward before graduating from Moore High School in 1971. He attended OSU Tech at Okmulgee before serving four years in the U.S. Navy. He was a Vietnam veteran. He worked for several years for Ingalls Shipyard, where he was a marine electrician. He had lived in Mississippi since 1987.

Survivors include two daughters, Tisha Nicole and Becky of Oklahoma City; his parents, Wiley and Jo Merrell of Eufaula; a sister and brother-in-law, Janet Lee and Stan Griffin of Rock Port, Missouri; a brother and sister-in-law, Tommy Joe and Diana Merrell of Analo, Venezuela; several nieces and neph-

ews. He was preceded in death by his grandparents and a brother, Marty Merrell. Gary was the great-grandson of Allottees John B. Pambogo and Caroline Peltier Pambogo.

Donald Elvin Melot

Donald Elvin Melot, 68, departed from this life to be with his Lord Jesus. Born at Wanette, OK on June 23, 1930. He was preceded in death by both parents and son Donald Wayne.

He is survived by wife, Florene; son, Charles Raymond; daughters, Marjorie Luper and husband Greg, Robin Gragg; grandchildren, Raymond, Melanie, Jessica, Jonathon, Melissa and Adam.

He retired from Howard Meat Co. and served in the U.S. Army, Korean War. He found the real Peace of God in February 1998. Services were held November 2, 1998, at the South Colonial Chapel, 6934 S. Western, Oklahoma City, OK. Burial was at the Sunset Memorial Cemetery, OKC, Indian Hill Rd.

HOW-NI-KAN

PEOPLE OF THE FIRE

The HowNiKan is published by the Business Committee of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation with offices at 1601 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801.

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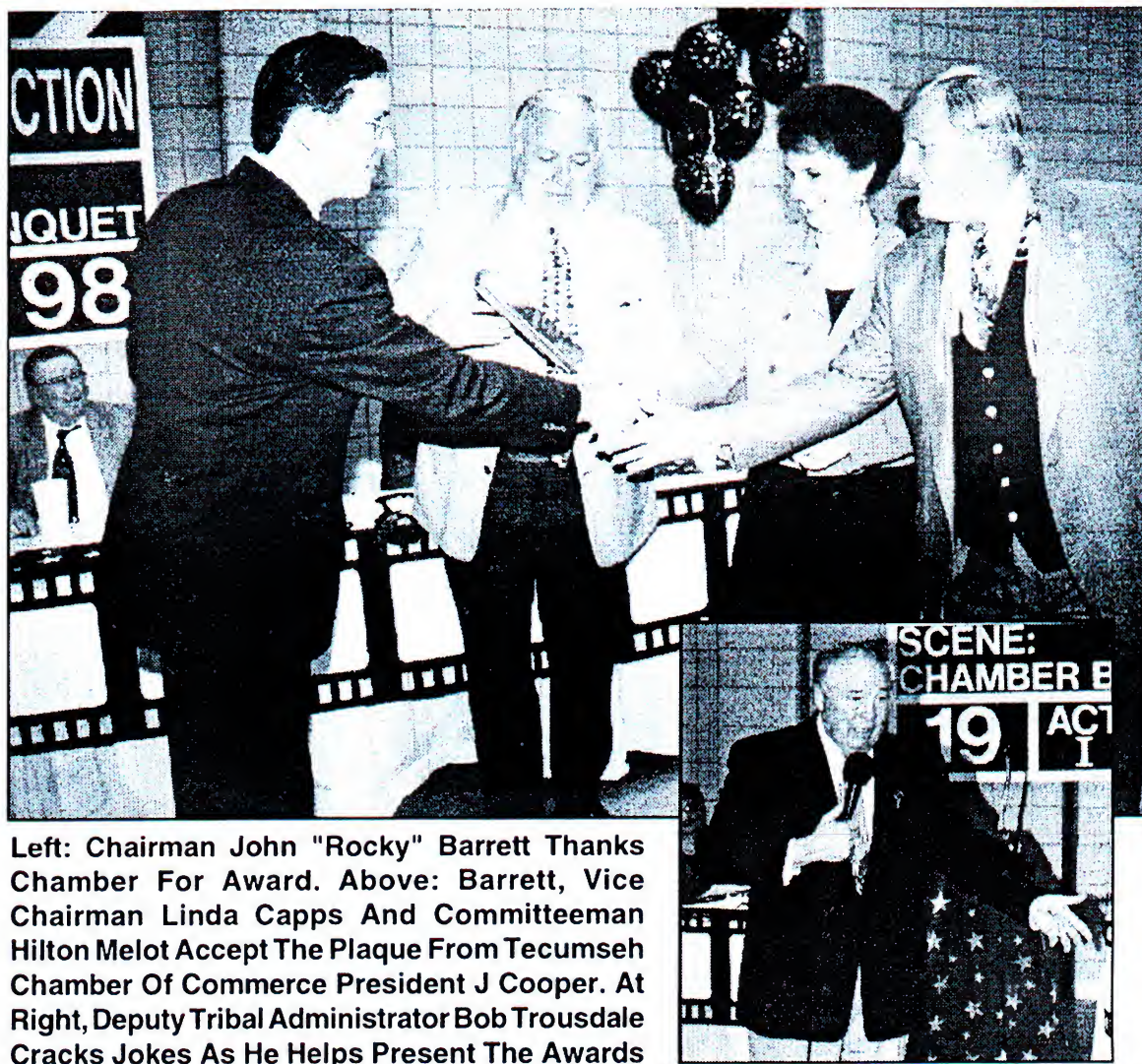
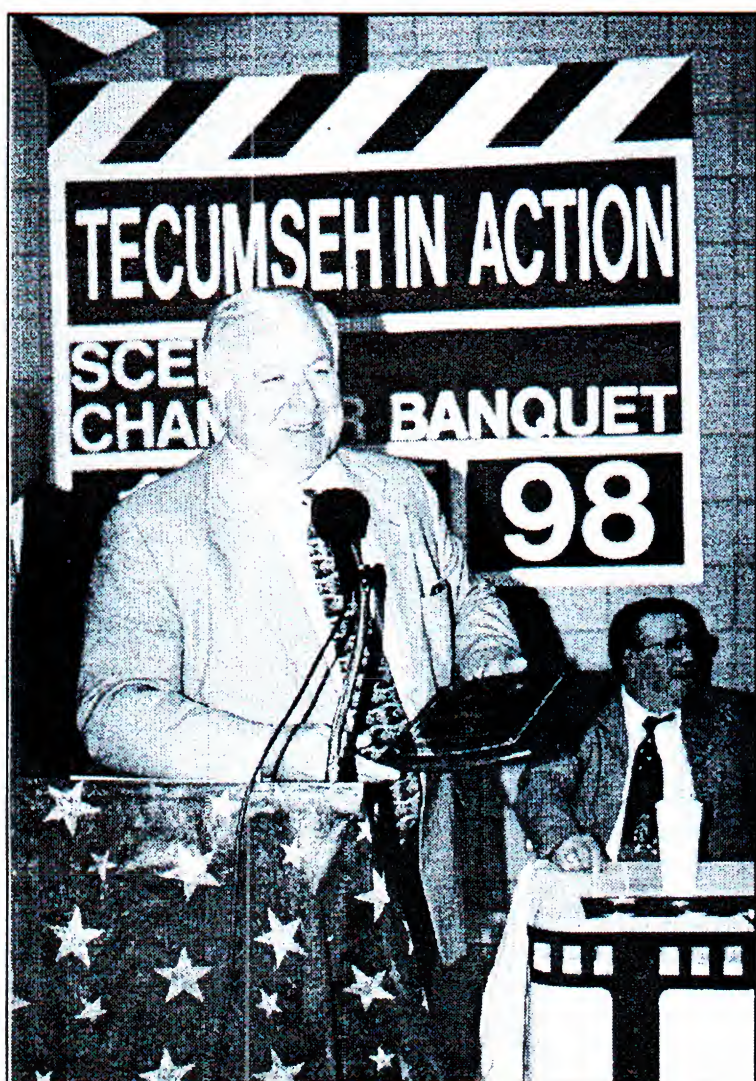
Citizen Potawatomi Nation Business Committee
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Early Head Start Director

Position is full time for twelve months. Minimum Qualifications: M.Ed., MSW, or related MA required. Preferred: Minimum of Five years experience in management in a Head Start or Child Development Center. Consideration will be given for fewer years that demonstrate progressive movement into Administration. Candidate must have demonstrated skills and abilities in a management capacity. Responsibilities include interviewing, hiring, and training employees; planning, assigning, and directing work; appraising performance; addressing and resolving problems; and, fiscal management and regulatory compliance. Please send Resume to: Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Shirl Eastep, Human Resources Director, 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr., Shawnee, OK 74801



Left: Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett Thanks Chamber For Award. Above: Barrett, Vice Chairman Linda Capps And Committeeman Hilton Melot Accept The Plaque From Tecumseh Chamber Of Commerce President J Cooper. At Right, Deputy Tribal Administrator Bob Trousdale Cracks Jokes As He Helps Present The Awards

Nation honored by Tecumseh chamber for renovation

There were big smiles reflected in shiny plaques as the winners were named at the Tecumseh Chamber of Commerce's Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet in mid-November at City Hall. About 200 were on hand for one of Tecumseh's most popular events, and found themselves entering a movie set.

President J Cooper's surprise theme featured a giant clapperboard, oversized film strips, spotlights, cameras, and other Hollywood trappings. A highlight of the evening was "Tecumseh In Action," a video presentation composed of both still and motion pictures of chamber members

and activities throughout the year.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation earned the Tecumseh chamber's award for Best Business Renovation of 1998. Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett, Vice Chairman Linda Capps and Business Committee member Hilton Melot accepted the award from Bob Trousdale, deputy tribal administrator, who assisted Cooper with the awards presentations.

Capps and Trousdale also serve on the chamber board.

The award was for the renovation of the former Oak Crest Adolescent Mental Health Facility, at 1601 South Gordon

Cooper Drive. The 32,000-square-foot building now houses administrative offices previously located in four buildings, along with the tribe's childcare facility and elders' program. The project was the top vote-getter among four nominees.

The Nation was also nominated as "Business of the Year," while Trousdale was among the nominees for "Citizen of the Year." That honor went to businessman and civic leader Randy Gilbert. Terry O'Rourke, manager of the Potawatomi Tribal Store has twice been named the Tecumseh chamber's "Citizen of the Year."

A medical practice and a heating and

air conditioning service shared "Business of the Year" honors. Family Medicine Specialists and Watkins Heating & Air Conditioning Sales and Service received an identical number of votes. They joined the Potawatomi Nation in a field of twelve nominees.

O'Rourke received recognition at the banquet for his work with the Sunbelt Classic baseball series, contested in Shawnee, Tecumseh, and Seminole each June. The tournament, featuring high school baseball all-stars from eight states, brings many visitors and much valuable attention and publicity for the area.

Nation's child care funding hostage to bureaucratic maneuvering

By Michael Dodson

The Indian Health Service has found no conflict between language in federal law and continued funding for Citizen Potawatomi Nation programs. The Bureau of Indian Affairs does find a conflict.

The result is that disbursement of funding for the Nation's top-quality, 150-child day care center is being delayed by BIA officials. The BIA has also embargoed all of the Nation's other BIA compact funding and its 477 funds.

At issue is a section of federal appropriations (spending) law that says: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds in this act may be used to enter into any new or expanded self-determination contract or grant or self-governance

compact pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975, as amended, for any activities not previously covered by such contracts, compacts, or grants."

The law continues: **"Nothing in this section precludes the continuation of those specific activities for which self-determination and self-governance contracts, compacts, and grants currently exist or the renewal of contracts, compacts, and grants for those activities (emphasis added); implementation of section 325 of Public Law 105-83 (111 Stat. 1597); or, compliance with 25 U.S.C. 2005."**

Citizen Potawatomi Nation officials believe that continued funding for the day care facility falls under the exception outlined in bolded and highlighted text.

"Clearly, disbursement of the

Nation's day care funding should not be subject to the Congressional moratorium on *new contract* funding," said John "Rocky" Barrett, Tribal Chairman.

"BIA Director Kevin Gover approved our BIA compact before Congress enacted the new compact funding moratorium," Barrett pointed out. "And, our compact calls for nothing more than spending the money for which we had been approved under a previous contract. **There is no new funding called for in the Potawatomi Nation compact.**"

"We are working tirelessly to convince BIA bureaucrats that our interpretation of this language is correct. We hope that expensive litigation is not our only alternative to get fair treatment from the BIA," Barrett said.

"Of course, the BIA blames Congress-

sional staffers and Congressional staffers say that the BIA makes its own interpretation of the law. Sadly, it is the children who are affected while the politicians play games."

Meanwhile, the Potawatomi Nation Day Care Center remains open and the Nation continues delivering all other services called for in its BIA compact.

"Interruptions in federal funding, such as this one, and possible cutbacks or ending of federal funding are precisely the emergencies and contingencies for which the Nation is preparing with its successful business enterprises," said Linda Capps, Potawatomi Vice-Chairman.

"Owning profitable businesses provides the ability to weather these financial storms," Capps added.

Tribe helps bring good water to rural Pottawatomie County

(Wanette, OK) – Jerry Bourassa, a Citizen Potawatomi tribal member, just thought he had retired a few years ago. The past two years, Bourassa and fellow organizer John Robinson, with the able assistance of several other residents of the area, have guided formation of a rural water district. The water district holds hope of being the key that unlocks the potential for development, new jobs, and more retail activity for southern Pottawatomie County residents.

Robinson, who lives on Salt Creek north of Wanette, said that the fact that it is tough to get potable water was just an accepted part of being raised in that area. "Growing up, as a young lad, we always had a water problem – not enough of it, even dragging it up with a rope and bucket from wells."

When Robinson moved back to the area, after 19 years of living elsewhere, he saw that it still suffered from a lack of easily accessible, easily deliverable water.

Six years ago, at a reunion at the Trousdale school, Robinson made the bold statement, "Well, I'll see what I can do about getting a water district started."

"We had a public meeting, to determine if people were interested," said Robinson. "Then we checked feasibility by getting applications and commitments, to see if we could get a water district."

"We would be talking to these people (south Pottawatomie County residents) and they'd be talking about hauling water and drinking out of their ponds. And, I realized how important the water would be to that area," Robinson explained. "That kinda increased my commitment to the project."

Bourassa, meanwhile, was born and raised in the Wanette area, on the farm where he currently resides. He entered the military in 1949 and made it a career, retiring in 1984.

"When John and Bill asked me to attend a water district (formation) meeting, I ... decided that this is a worthwhile project and I'd be willing to work on that," Bourassa said.

Bourassa told the *HowNiKan* that the lack of water has been a decided impediment to the economic development of the area. "There are a lot of places (in this area) where there is a lot of land available. But, with no water on it nobody does anything with it."

There was a certain level of skepticism as Bourassa, Robinson, et. al. began setting up the water district. However, that is definitely on the wane as visible progress is made.

"When they saw us keep plowing ahead with it, and it looks like it's going to be reality, there are now a lot of housing starts in the area and a lot of plans being made to use that land that was unusable prior to this water project," Bourassa said.

For instance, Bourassa pointed out, "The Wanette Industrial Authority has



John Robinson

finally come alive again, and gotten re-organized. They are trying to do something to attract some business, now that they have some water to be able to support a project."

"Without water, nothing is going to happen different than what has happened in the past," Robinson says he has told the water district directors. "But, with water, anything is possible."

However, most important, according to Robinson, the attitude and outlook of south Pottawatomie Countians have improved dramatically. "(Now), we do have a positive attitude among the leaders, whereas, before, it's been 'throw up our hands, what the heck, business as usual.'"

Bourassa and Robinson quickly make it known that the water district has not been built on their efforts and contributions alone. Some 200 people attended the initial water district meeting. They contributed more than \$2,000 to meet the organization's initial expenses.

Next, the organizers petitioned the Pottawatomie County Board of Commissioners for formation of an official water district. "Our original idea was not as large as the district is now," Robinson said. "It's grown like Topsy."

After the water district was formed, the directors began applying for grants, looking for an engineer and an attorney, and organizing the district's business. "We've gone down that road and, now, it's just a matter of getting all the chips in place to make this thing go," Bourassa says.

The water district has received a commitment of \$1.8 million in grant money. It has received approval of a loan for about that amount, too. There are other grant requests in the pipeline.

The current task is getting agreement on easements from as many as 1500 land-owners on whose property the water lines will be laid. "We're ready to do something, as soon as we can get the easements



Rep. Dale Smith

where we can plan that pipeline and start some dirt work on it," Bourassa said.

The water district will install 226 miles of distribution lines in an area that covers 216 square miles. (The water district itself covers a significantly larger area.)

Five hundred sixty-three families have signed up to buy water through the district. Eighty-nine of these members are Native American families; many of them are Citizen Potawatomi tribal members. "This district is large enough so that we will require our own treatment plant, about three water towers," and the supporting infrastructure, Bourassa explained.

The district directors plan to split the work into separate contracts. "When we begin, it will go a lot faster if you have five people (contractors) working than if you

have just one contractor doing the whole job," is Bourassa's opinion.

A seven-member board of directors sets the water district policy. They were elected at an annual meeting. There are representatives from all parts of the water district. "We intentionally secured them from each corner of the district, the center, and other parts," Robinson said. "That way, all members will be close to their representative on the board of directors."

Families and businesses that signed up for water district membership early in the process paid a \$275.00 fee. That will entitle them to a meter, once the system is in place, and the opportunity to purchase water.

The latecomers, who sign up after the June 1, 1998 cut-off date, will pay a \$500.00 membership fee — and any additional costs that are created by their hooking into the water delivery system.

"I feel pretty safe in saying the year 2000," is Bourassa's response to a question about a target date for having water flowing through the district's pipeline system. "But," he adds, "there are a lot of things that must happen between now and then." He hopes to be able to begin putting pipelines in the ground early in 1999.

Bourassa says that any group anticipating a similar project should "determine the need then determine the support you have for the project." The next step is to organize a structure to be able to work toward accomplishing the goal. The search for grant funds and other types of support is the next step.

Bourassa and Robinson say that State Rep. Dale Smith (Dem.-St. Louis) has been very helpful throughout this entire process.

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION HEALTH COMPLEX

NO-SHOW APPOINTMENT POLICY

A No-Show consists of any appointment that is missed without calling in advance to cancel the appointment, or not arriving for the appointment within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled time.

It is the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Complex's policy that the patient or responsible party must cancel or re-schedule an appointment within a timely manner. A twenty-four (24) hour notice of cancellation is desirable.

After three (3) **No-Shows**, the patient will not be eligible for services or be allowed to re-schedule an appointment for a period of six (6) months from the date of the lastest missed appointment.

It is not the CPN Health Complex's desire to deny services to any eligible patient. However, in order to provide efficient services to all of our patients, everyone's co-operation is necessary.

Grant approved for Early Head Start program

Citizen Potawatomi Nation leaders and staff have begun preparations to set up an Early Head Start Program. The word to proceed arrived recently in the form of a grant approval letter from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The Nation has been approved for a \$100,000 grant for the period through August 31, 1999. This money is to be used for start-up costs.

The Early Head Start Program will serve children from infancy to approximately three years of age. As appropriate, a child will be allowed to remain in the program following his third birthday, until he can transition into Head Start or another program.

In a letter that accompanied the grant application, John "Rocky" Barrett, Potawatomi Chairman, said, "The tribe desires to provide early, individualized comprehensive child development and education services to low-income infants and toddlers and their families."

Chairman Barrett said that Potawatomi leaders are convinced of the need to offer these services. "The Nation has completed five community and county level surveys. They have demonstrated the need for an Early Head Start Program and the beneficial impact it can have on our families."

Barrett pointed out that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Day Care Center has more than 90 children in daily attendance. Sixty-eight of these children are younger than four. In addition, the nation has documented 172 tribal children younger than three who live within 20 miles of the proposed site for the Head Start center. An additional 30-plus infants are on the day care center waiting list.

The program's overall goal is: **To provide a firm foundation for Social Competence, which leads to a child's everyday effectiveness in dealing with both his present environment and later responsibilities in school and life.**

In seeking to reach that goal, the program will: (1) enhance each child's health, growth and development; (2) strengthen families as the primary nurturers of their children; (3) provide children with educational, health, disability, mental health, dental, and nutritional services; (4) link children and families to community services; and, (5) ensure a well-managed program that involves parents in decision-making.

"The Early Head Start program will provide a combination of part-time home based and center based services," said Rhonda Butcher, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Self-Governance Coordinator. "The center's staff will work with



Construction Work Has Already Begun On An Expansion Of The Nation's Child Care Facilities

each family to assess its need for child care and will develop appropriate plans."

For example, according to Butcher, a pregnant teenager who is attending an alternative school would begin with home visitation and parent education classes. After her child is born, the teen mother would be able to take her child to the Early Head Start center on weekday mornings while caring for the infant herself during the afternoons.

"Child care services would be similarly tailored for other parents who have different child care needs," said Butcher.

Potawatomi leaders expect numerous benefits for children who participate in the Early Head Start Program. They will have: improved literacy, numeracy, and language skills; improved general cognitive skills; improved gross and fine motor skills; positive attitudes toward learning; improved social behavior and emotional well being; and, improved physical health.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation anticipates a six-month period in which the operational structure of the Early Head Start Center will be established. Home based services are scheduled to begin on June 1, 1999 and will be provided year round while center-based services will begin in September and follow the school year.



Rhonda Butcher, Donette Littlehead Go Over Plans For The New Early Head Start Program

NORTH TEXAS RI

Nov. 7, 1998



Left: Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett blessed the meeting room



Right: Donna Bernard of Cedar Hill, Texas, earned top honors in the Regional Art Contest, an award presented by Vice Chairman Linda Capps



Right: Vernon and Jerri Peery of Denison, Texas, earned the prize for having traveled the farthest to attend the meeting



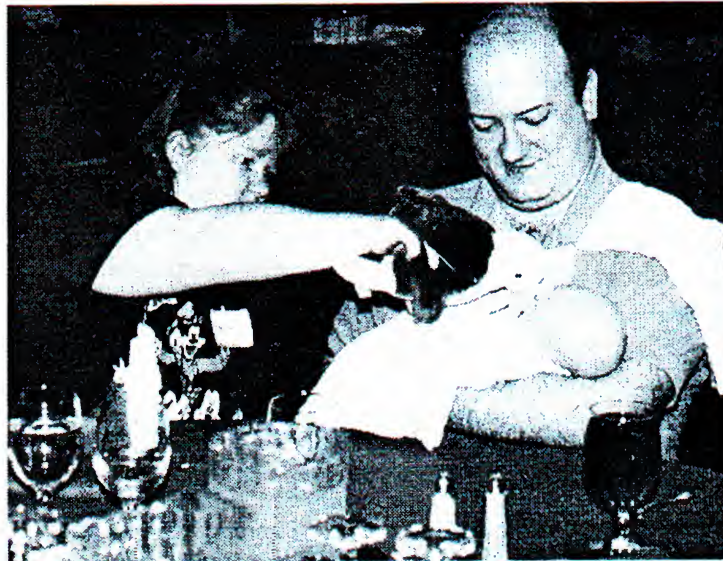
Right: Susan Wesley (left) of Grand Prairie, Texas, helped tremendously as her mother, North Texas regional representative Marj Hobby, planned the meeting.



Left: The Rev. Joe Dorries and his mother, Joan Dorries, always liven up the proceedings. Right: Tribal members listen intently as officials fill them in on news from Potawatomi headquarters



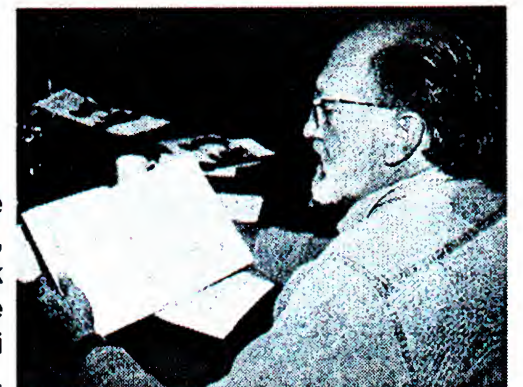
SIONAL COUNCIL



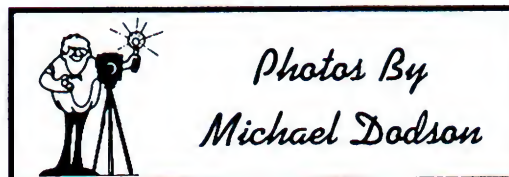
Left: Chairman Barrett admires Ashleigh Marie Snell, the youngest Potawatomi at the meeting. Above: Ashleigh does her best to ignore the stuffed eagle she earned as the youngest Potawatomi present. Her parents are Stacy and David Snell of Garland, Texas.



Dennette Brand, CPN Assistant Director of Public Information, performed yeoman's work as a salesperson at the Potawatomi Gift Shop table.



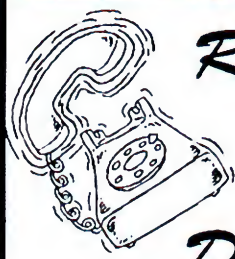
Right: Duane Abbey of Kyle, Texas, took time to peruse a Potawatomi history book.



Below: Dorothy Whitebread took home honors as the Wisest Potawatomi at the meeting.



The HowNiKan photographer caught Susan Wesley in the act of photographing the CPN Business Committee.



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REGIONAL REPORTS

Oregon/Washington/Idaho

Bozho Bo de wad mi,

Ni Ji Na? Oh I am doing very well. Hated to see old summer go but the holidays are always an exciting time when all the children gather around you and make it so festive.

I want to send our deepest sympathy to Hilton Melot, as he lost his father in October. It is always very hard when you lose a parent.

Congratulations to our Tribal Chairman, Mr. Rocky Barrett, who was appointed by the Oklahoma Governor, Frank Keating, to the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission. We are proud of him and his accomplishments, not only in our Tribal affairs but also in the state and counties of Oklahoma.

And what about our tribe owning a

radio station? Not that we can hear it clear out here in the Northwest, but it is quite an acquisition for our tribe. Boy, we are growing.

I recently drove to Newport from Corvallis and the construction project I told you about in the last newsletter is really in full swing. I am not sure if any of you took advantage of the hiring of minority construction work or not, as I didn't get any calls from any of you. It really is a large project.

Did you notice that the dates for our Regional Meeting have been set for April 24 this next spring? If anyone has a suggestion for the location, give me a call. Remember, I promised Washington we would go up there next year. Let me hear from some of you.

Our entrepreneur for his month is Lenora Rutledge, who lives in Tillamook, Oregon, and is the owner and operator of Lenora's Alterations. Lenora says she has hemmed pants for 24 years in Tillamook, and 17 years before that in California. Her business is run from one of Tillamook's older homes and has become a landmark for her business. One of Lenora's favorite assignments is wedding dresses. She can really show off her artistic ability in that field. We are so proud to be able to claim her as a member of our Indian heritage and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Megwich,

— Rocky Baptiste

Northern California

Bozho,

The winter is upon us now. We have rain and cooler weather. No complaints, though — not after seeing the reports on Nicaragua, Honduras, etc. It is a good reminder of how fortunate we are to be here in California/Nevada. It also reminds us to be prepared for unexpected events, such as an earthquake.

Please take the time to gather water, foodstuffs, first aid equipment, and other necessities and put them in a dry, out-of-the-way place outside your home. In the event of a quake, you will be glad you did.

We had a great voter turnout this year and I, for one, am glad to see it. Proposition 5, which continues and

expands Indian gaming, passed with flying colors. This is an important statement. Voters have a positive attitude toward our people; that will help to keep our sovereignty intact.

The new governor (Democrat Gray Davis) should be a step in the right direction, too.

There have been requests for scholarship info and health-aids forms. Remember to get your applications in by December 15 for the student financial aid program.

Pow wows are fewer in number during the winter, but they create a nice break from hibernation. Here are a couple coming up:

November 28 — Delta College PW, 5151 North Pacific Ave., Stockton. Phone: Campus (209)954-5100 or Two Eagle (209)463-0327

December 12 — Santa Rosa PW, Sonoma Co. Fairgrounds, Finley Hall, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., (707)869-8233

Plans for our next regional meeting (March 6th) will be in the works for the next few months, so if you have some ideas, suggestions, or otherwise, please let me know by mail, phone, fax, or email (region03@potawatomi.org or JJPorter@juno.com). I welcome your comments!

Be well, everyone ... bama mine'

— Jennifer J. Porter

South Texas

Bosho mine, Nikanyen,

Mno bmaes ne,ngom?

Fall has finally arrived here in East Texas.

The weather is cooler, the trees are turning a bit, and we are privileged to see Mother Earth at her Fall finest. We do not see the turning of the leaves as some of you farther to the North do, but we appreciate what our Southern climate allows.

A walk in these woods restores the soul. The deer are beautiful and plentiful. The hunters shall do well. We do not hunt this year, but we know the need for food is there among the people.

As we approach the Holiday season, we are reminded that our Creator provides abundantly for all our needs. Our food, our shelter, the very air we breathe and the water to quench our thirst, all are gifts of Mamogosan. Even

the clothes we wear were first products of the Earth before being sewn into garments. Add to that the family, friends and the privilege of being born to the Neshnabek, and we have reason to rejoice daily.

John and I wish you all good holidays, good health, the love of family and friends that make the season special. Remember the ill, the Elders and

the babies, and you shall be doubly blessed.

Remember to call me if you wish to spend some time with us in study of our Language. The dates are now set for December 28 through January 1. I can think of no better way to end and start a year.

Bama pi she anwe,

— Lu Ellis

**The HowNiKan welcomes
contributions from its readers, especially
letters to the editor and news of achievements
of tribal members. Please mail your submission
to Mary Farrell at tribal headquarters.
Deadline is the
5th of the month.**

REGIONAL REPORTS

North Texas

It's cool with some rain here in North Texas at last and almost Fall. What the rain and cool weather really did was make some of the plants think it was Spring and they started blooming. The stress of the heat and drought confused them and they thought it had been winter, I guess. Now a few leaves are changing, but we need that first frost for the beautiful color. I'm sure it will happen before Thanksgiving.

We've had an exciting end to October and a great beginning for November and Native American Heritage Month. It seems there has been a day of recognition of the "First Americans" since 1916 and in 1988, the official observance was changed to the entire month of November. First, the American Indian Heritage Celebration was held on October 31 in River Legacy Park, Arlington, Texas. Our Chairman Rocky Barrett was here to speak and meet with any Potawatomi who were able to attend. Governor Bill Anoatubby of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma and Chief Greg Pyle of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma were also there along with other dignitaries.

The event was well planned and also well sponsored. I am sorry it was not better publicized for our members and other Native Americans in this area and the attendance was not as good as it should have been. I believe this will be a yearly event and perhaps next year will be better. I know everyone's plate is full with family and business.

Our yearly Regional Meeting was

Saturday, November 7, and it was a nice meeting. No one believed that I stayed up late polishing the silver coffee service. Rocky presented a new slide show which was great. He talked about current items as well as giving us a look at events from the time our tribe was up around Illinois and Indiana. We had all read about the bank robbery, but Rocky's rendition certainly made it come alive. We are all grateful for the safety of Dale Klingensmith. A special thank you is sent to all of the Business Committee for the time they devote to these meetings and to Vicki Canfield and Denette Brand for coming down to man (or woman) the gift shop. And on the local front, Maureen Higgins, Donna Barnard, Michael Wesley and Susan Wesley made my day easier. It was good to see those of you who were able to come and we missed those of you who were not able to be there.

My husband and I attended the Indian Art Festival and Market on Sunday, November 8, and the first booth we saw had a big sign that said Potawatomi. The artist and fine young man was Matt Bearden of Hominy, Oklahoma. We also met Matt's mother, father and friend. It was exciting for me to see a Potawatomi competing and showing. If I can help, give me a call.

I now have e-mail and my address is Region07@Potawatomi.org. Hope you have a blessed Thanksgiving and a joyous holiday season. Can't believe it's already here.

— Marj Hobdy

Colorado

Greetings from Colorado!

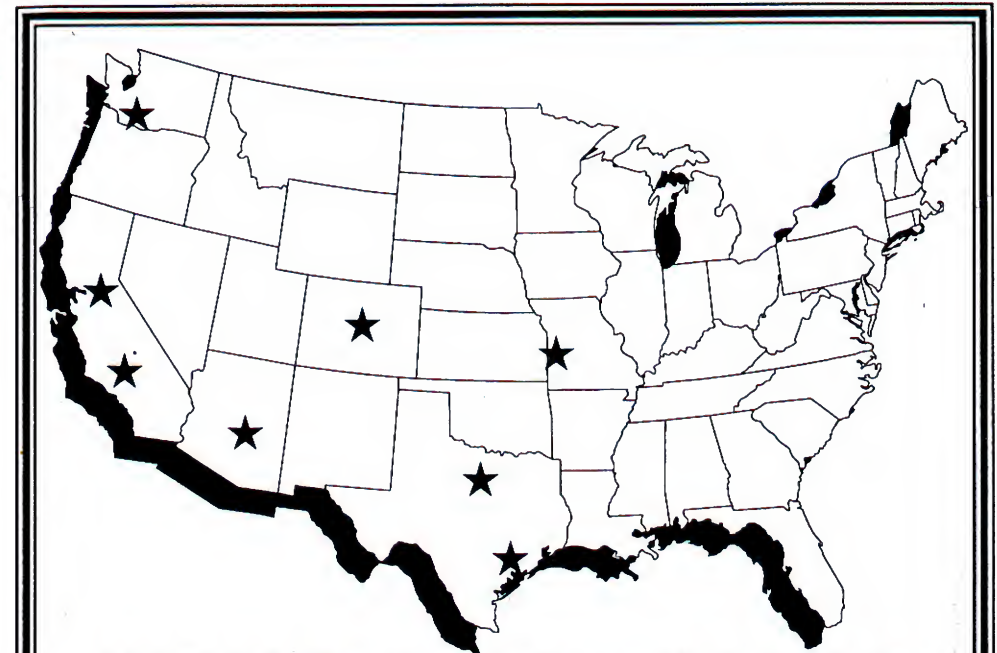
Our Creator smiled and sent his many blessings on Denver for the 13th annual Regional Council Meeting held October 24. It was a beautiful Indian summer day. A year ago on this day, the Denver metro area had two feet of snow.

It always warms my heart beyond words to see so many familiar faces; to be with family and friends; to be with Potawatomi people. We were honored to have Rocky Barrett, Linda Capps, Bob Trousdale and Gene Bruno of the Business Committee; Michael Dodson, Public Information; and Vicki Canfield, Executive Secretary; to join us this year. Hilton Melot was unable to join us this year due to the loss of his father. My family and Denver Regional tribal members join me in extending our deepest sympathy and condolences to Hilton and his family, on the death of

his father Raymond Melot.

Mr. Barrett opened the meeting with prayer and brought us up to date with current tribal developments. A slide presentation of the new tribal complex was very enlightening. Rev. Tony Short, S.J., shared an Arapahoe blessing and offered prayer before our meal. A video of Potawatomi history was also enjoyed. Entrants for this year's regional art competition more than doubled from last year. This year's winners are: 1st place – Lou Haskew (Pettifer descendant) for her Pansy oil painting, 2nd place – Doris Cochran (Anderson descendant) for her pencil portrait; third place – Penny Bishop (Bertrand/Higbee/Clardy descendant) for her traditional ribbonwork. Congratulations to all entrants, on your beautiful work.

As tradition dictates, we acknowledge 78-year-old, Sam McCollum, a Yott descendant, as the oldest tribal member



1998-99 Regional Council Schedule

Denver	Oct. 1, 1998
Dallas	Nov. 7, 1998
Southern California	Jan. 16, 1999
Phoenix	Feb. 6, 1999
Northern California	March 6, 1999
Houston	March 20, 1999
Seattle/Portland	April 24, 1999
Kansas City	May 15, 1999



Potawatomi Art Contest

All tribal members are eligible for the 1998-99 tribal art competition, which will be held at each regional council meeting this year with the winners entered in the overall contest at the 1999 Pow-Wow. Check with your regional coordinator for more information.

present. Three-month-old Ebanee Rose Lashea Moyers, a Muller descendant, was the youngest tribal member present. Shelby Maupin (Muller descendant) of Borger, Texas, and Susan Campbell (Vieux descendant) and her husband Eric of Seattle, Washington traveled the longest distance.

We were blessed to have four generations of Potawatomi women in attendance, June Blooding, daughter Sylvia Weeks, granddaughter Shelby Maupin, great granddaughter Ebanee Moyers, Muller descendants. This year's raffle winners are: Bob Sorrell (Acton/Rhodd/Dowd descendant) won the beautiful beaded belt buckle; Susan Spencer (Navarre/Burns descendant) won the lovely ribbonwork shawl; Aaron McEathron (Acton/Rhodd/Dowd descendant) won the set of Potawatomi children's books.

Marlene Perez (Acton/Rhodd/Dowd descendant) patiently assisted our children in assembling hairpipe chokers and leather turtles. My heartfelt "thanks" to Nell Cottrell (Bertrand/Clardy/Higbee descendant); Marlene Perez (Acton/Rhodd/Dowd descendant); Susan Campbell (Vieux descendant) and husband Eric for their priceless assistance in the last minute preparations. My sincere "thanks" to Sam McCollum for the wonderful book on "Native American Wisdom." And to Areta Blooding-Laird, for the beautiful "Breast Cancer Awareness" pin.

To all who attended this year's regional, it was wonderful to see you and renew our friendship. To all who were unable to attend, we missed you. I look forward to seeing you all next year, if not before.

— Penny Bishop

First National forms new department to handle mortgages

Continued from page 1

excited about this unique opportunity to make affordable housing loans to members of the Potawatomi Nation while expanding the mortgage loan capabilities of First National Bank," said Dustan R. Shepherd, founder and President of FAMC.

"Being a Native American owned company, FAMC is extremely pleased to be working with one of just seven Native American owned banks in the United States," Shepherd said. "As the only federally-chartered bank that is 100% Native American owned and managed, First National will be a role model for serving Indian Country's housing needs."

Freddie Mac is a stockholder-owned corporation chartered by Congress in 1970 to create a continuous flow of funds to mortgage lenders. Through supplying lenders with the money to make mortgages and packaging the mortgages into marketable securities, Freddie Mac sustains a stable mortgage credit system and reduces the mortgage rates paid by homebuyers.

"Freddie Mac, the Potawatomi Nation, PMI, and participating lenders are beginning an important journey together – a journey that will make the promise of improved housing opportunities a reality for many tribal members," said Craig Nickerson, vice president for Community



Tribal Members At Informational Meeting On New Program

Development Lending at Freddie Mac.

"We applaud the Potawatomis' creative use of funds made available through the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act. It is this kind of local creativity, combined with public-private sector alliances, that increases home ownership here and in other communities around the country," Nickerson added.

Over the years, Freddie Mac has opened doors for one of every six homebuyers in America, and for two million renters.

Potawatomi tribal members who want more information about the housing assistance and home ownership program

can call Sherry Byers, of the Potawatomi Nation Housing Authority staff, at 405-275-3121 or 800-880-9880.

Robert Carlile, Director of the Potawatomi Housing Authority, said that, to be eligible for this program, tribal members must have a housing application on file with his office. "Ms. Byers can provide housing applications and assistance in completing and filing them," Carlile said.

"The Citizen Potawatomi Nation is pleased to offer this opportunity for tribal members to become home owners," Barrett said. "Home ownership is the best, most available way for most Americans to create personal and family wealth. Opening

this door will help create Potawatomi-owned businesses, more opportunities for Potawatomi families to send children to college, and a better way of life for our people."

"We are delighted to work with Citizen Potawatomi Nation and our lending and investment partners to expand home ownership opportunities for members of the Potawatomi Nation," said David Katkov, PMI's Vice President - Marketing. "This program is an excellent example of what can be accomplished when mortgage market participants join with local partners to make affordable financing available to people who want to own a home."

The PMIMortgage Insurance Co., based in San Francisco, is the third largest private mortgage insurer in the United States based on 1997 year-end insurance in force. In addition to private mortgage insurance, PMI, with its parent company The PMI Group, Inc. and corporate affiliates, is a leader in risk management technology. It provides various products and services for the home mortgage finance industry, including title insurance.

As one of the lenders, Washington Mutual, of Seattle, Washington, has also been instrumental in making the Citizen Potawatomi Nation home ownership program possible.

New Tecumseh school program helps tribal member, others

By Michael Dodson

In its initial year of existence, the Tecumseh Academy has already proved itself a valuable resource. Its mission is to assist the school district's middle school and high school students who have not been able to sustain their academic progress for any of a variety of reasons.

"We truly are a program for at-risk students," says Bobbette Hamilton, Academy Director. "These are students who would probably not graduate without this program. We have some teen parents who would have had to quit high school. We have students who have had truancy and academic problems. And, we have a few students who have had some behavior problems."

One of the Academy students is Joshua Smith, a high school junior and the son of Rowana Condry, an employment counselor in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Employment and Training Program. Upon transferring into the Tecumseh school district, Smith, who is a well-above-average student, found himself several high school credits short of being on target to graduate in May 2000.

Condry and Hamilton say that, just three months into his attendance at the Academy, Smith seems to have been able to put his academic endeavors back on track.

This is the first time the Tecumseh school district has offered an alternative setting to students during regular school hours. "The program offers core curriculum classes that the state requires for graduation," Hamilton explained. "It also offers a few elective courses."

Most of the students are able to accelerate, recording elective credits through the Academy's Work-Study Experience com-

ponent. "The high school students go to school in the morning. But, in the afternoon, they work, participate in a service-learning program, or attend classes at the Gordon Cooper Technology Center," Hamilton said.

In the service-learning setting, students find unpaid internships at businesses or organizations. "The students are required to find these places where they can, essentially, volunteer their work (in exchange for earning the high school credits)."

Generally, the students earn one high school credit for each month in which they work 65 hours at a job.

When the *HowNiKan* visited the Tecumseh Academy in mid-October, there were 23 high school students enrolled. Six of these students are Native Americans.

The program seems to be a significant answer to the dropout problem. "Currently, we have 14 students who have dropped out of high school and have come back," said Hamilton.

The director believes remaining true to the Academy's mission, its reason for existence, has been the key to its early success. "They (Tecumseh school administrators and Board of Education members) want it to be the pure program that, I think, it has been; we don't want to be a place where students are sent for small behavior problems. This is truly for students who are at risk."

Prospective Tecumseh Academy students are referred by a counselor and the high school principal. They must go through a screening process. They must state and school district criteria.

Hamilton is very pleased by her students' progress. "We have seven seniors on track to graduate at mid-term, in December. Many of them had dropped out of

school. We have had students who have had truancy problems who are here every day."

Condry says there is major difference in her son since he began attending the Academy. "He has hope now. Before, he just knew he was not going to be able to graduate and, he felt, 'What is the use?'"

It is also very encouraging, in Condry's opinion, that her son is again willing to discuss the probability of attending college. "Before, it was just totally out of the question," she said.

"When I first met him," Hamilton said, "Josh was a little down. He indicated he did not believe he could make it. After we prepared a graduation plan and he saw that he was not as far behind as he had thought, things brightened tremendously for Josh."

Hamilton said that, in Josh Smith, she

has seen "a very focused young man, someone who certainly has a goal and works very hard in the program and is excited about his job."

"He's a good kid. I knew he had it in him. He just needed someone to give him that break," is Mom's assessment of the change in Josh's attitude and prospects.

Condry is pleased that the Tecumseh Academy is available for Josh and his classmates. "I work with young adults who have no education. We try to tell them that there is hope, there are programs available that will help."

Hamilton also praised Condry's work, through the Potawatomi Nation Employment and Training Program, in finding work for Academy students. "Being emotionally involved, it makes her very committed to the other students. I really appreciate that."



Bobbette Hamilton, Rowana Condry Discuss Tecumseh Academy

Fall Feast !



Ginger Johnson and Brenda Duboise kept the fry bread cooking. Bobby and Amber Duboise watch.



Patsy Cooper, Brenda Duboise, serve John Rhodd and friend at the Fall Feast.



Phil Pruner and son Jesse camped out for the Fall Feast.



Robert Pawnee, Mark Berry, Ed Herndon and Bro. Isadore from St. Gregory's enjoyed a great meal on the final Feast Day.

Chaplaincy program handles variety of tribal needs

Chaplaincy

The Chaplain assists individuals with spiritual advisement and conducts pastoral services at Mission Hill Indian Church (old Friend's Mission) each Sunday morning. Services begin at 10:30 a.m. The location of the church is north of the Potawatomi Nation Health Clinic.

The Chaplain conducts Powwow church services on the Sunday morning of the powwow. He also performs cultural spiritual work with our elders and their families.

Through counseling assessments, the Chaplain makes referrals to alternate resources of the tribe and other entities. The Chaplain provides supportive and bereavement counseling and makes referrals, as needed, in these situations.

The Chaplain makes hospital visits to ailing tribal members and members of their families. Conducting funerals and associated services is another chaplaincy duty and is provided when possible.

Language and Culture

The Language and Culture program continues its collaborative effort with the Hannaville Language Institute to preserve the Potawatomi language. At the tribal level, efforts are continually underway to reclaim the cultural knowledge of our ancestors and make effective use of the spoken language.

The purpose of these efforts is to: (1) Implement a standard written form of



A Message From The Chaplain

Norman Kiker

Potawatomi; (2) Train individuals who will teach the language; (3) Standardize lesson materials; (4) Eventually, reach the point of assisting in the creation of active language groups; and, (5) Develop the ability of people to speak Potawatomi.

Seasonal Ceremonies and Feasts

Ceremonies have returned to our Potawatomi people in Oklahoma. The spring of 1998 is a time that will be long remembered. Something very precious has returned to us. The ceremonies (prayers of our people), the times we gather together as a people to offer thanksgiving to our Creator have now been given back to us after a long absence. The responsibility no longer rests on our ancestors. It now rests in our hands.

Announcements will be placed in the *HowNiKan* to inform tribal members of ceremony locations and other pertinent information. If you are planning to attend the ceremonies and need motel, outdoor camping, or RV camping site information, please call 405-275-3121 and speak to Tracey Gibson at ext. 270 or Norman Kiker at ext. 232.

Accounting department wins award record 10th time

(Chicago, IL) – The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has earned the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for a record tenth consecutive time. The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada, headquartered in Chicago presents the certificate.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of government accounting and financial reporting. "Earning this certificate represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management," said Stephen Gauthier, Executive Director of the GFOA.

"The Potawatomi Nation's earning the certificate for an unprecedented tenth consecutive year displays a tremendous commitment by the Nation's leaders and finance professionals to presenting a complete picture of both government program and business enterprise finances," Gauthier said.

John "Rocky" Barrett,



Left to right: Treasure Fincher; Letha Goodchief; Susan Blair, Director of Enterprise Accounting; Carolyn Sullivan, Director of Accounting; Tammy Bittle; Jamie Moucka; Amber Barnett; and, Dee Wood

Potawatomi Nation Chairman, said, "We believe strongly in providing accurate, easily accessible information on our finances to tribal members and anyone else who needs it."

Linda Capps, Potawatomi

Vice-Chairman, thanked Carolyn Sullivan, Director of Accounting, and Susan Blair, Director of Enterprise Accounting, and all the employees in the two offices. "Earning this award year after year is a sign

of these employees' dedication to excellence. Their efforts allow us to pay our bills accurately and on time and provide decisions-makers throughout the Nation the information they need to take the right steps."

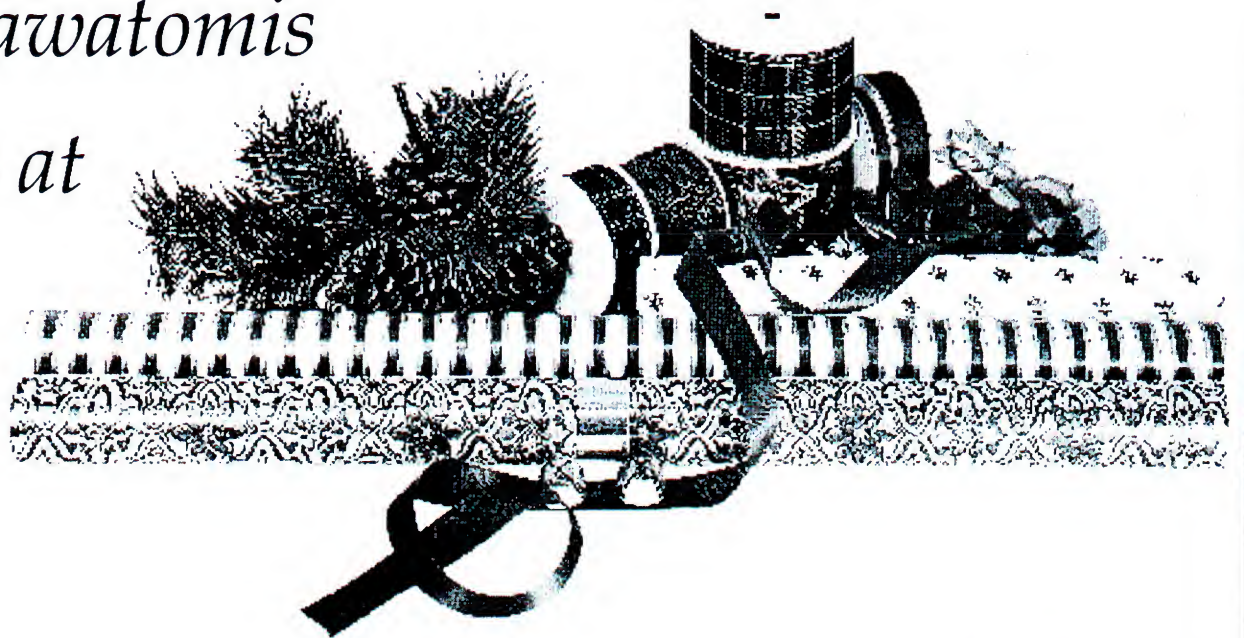
The Potawatomi Nation earned the award for its comprehensive annual financial report. The financial report was judged by an impartial panel and determined to meet the high standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story.

The panel also determined that the report was prepared in a manner that will motivate potential users and user groups to read it.

The GFOA is a non-profit professional association serving 12,625 government finance professionals. It has offices in both Chicago and Washington, D.C.

Employees in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Government Programs Accounting section are Dee Wood, Tammy Bittle, and Treasure Fincher. In addition to Ms. Blair, Letha Goodchief, Jamie Moucka, and Amber Lowden comprise the Business Enterprises Accounting section.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
to all the Potawatomis
from all of us at
your tribally
owned bank!*



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